

Grace Church Visitor

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

VOL. XXVIII

MAY, 1917

No. 3

THE YOUNG MAN AND THE CHURCH

(Earl M. Dinger.)

(We regret that lack of space prevents the printing of Mr. Dinger's splendid essay in full.—Ed.)

The average young man of today tho' he has joined the church has, I believe, never made the acquaintance of the real church. He has never realized his responsibilities. He has gone to church and sat thru sermons, but he has never heard a word. He has never made its teaching a vital principle in his life. He has repeated the Lord's Prayer, but has never prayed. He has belonged to a Bible class, but he has never brought another man.

Every church has soft-soaped her young men for so long that we have, to a great extent, forgotten our positions

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as church members and followers of Christ. It is time that we again use our heads to think and to think about ourselves and our relations to our church.

We, as young men full of hope for the future, happy amid present conditions, discouraging tho they may be, hold the keys to the life of the church. We have something the church ought to have. And that is enthusiasm; that is, if we are awake and active. Our smile and Good Morning fills the church with sunshine. Likewise our gloom and indifference fill it with clouds. We can put the people in the right or wrong frame of mind in which to listen to and to do God's Word.

We, young men of the church, might be called the progressives. We have the

THE AGENDA CLASS

(Clarence R. Aitken)

(Editor's Note—This is to tell you something about the class that is now in charge of The Visitor.)

The Agenda Bible Class was organized through the efforts of Earl Dinger, a meeting for this purpose being held at the home of George Shiffer early in June, 1913. Those present at this meeting were Arthur Fritz, William Straub, Darrel Copenhaver, Arthur Weiler, George Shiffer and Earl Dinger. A second meeting was held at the home of Earl Dinger on June 16th, when a constitution was adopted, the name "Agenda"—meaning "things to be done"—was chosen and the following officers were elected: Earl Dinger, president; William Straub, vice-president, and Evan Williams, secretary and

treasurer. Further steps toward perfecting the organization were taken. The work then drifted along until fall, when a very successful campaign was made for members. At the end of the first year the membership was fourteen; the class colors—light blue and white—had been selected, and the slogan, "Bring him with you," had been adopted.

The officers for the second year were: Ernest Baumgartner, president; William Straub, vice-president; Clarence Aiken, secretary, and Ralph Siebold, treasurer. At the beginning of the second year the first annual banquet was held and these meetings have been times of great pleasure for all our members. About the time the Athletic Com-

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THE YOUNG MAN AND THE CHURCH

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common touch and know what appeals to men. We have good minds, let us use them. The church needs our leadership whether it says so or not. Let us, by our original thinking and acting, show the older people we have something in church leadership which they need. I firmly believe that if the young man of today only assumed his rightful position and began to make his presence felt by his interest and activity, our churches would take on such a boom as they have never experienced.

But while the church needs us, we young men of today need the church. So often the church and its principles are misinterpreted. It seems so narrow, so conservative, so confining, so limiting. That is because we do not think hard enough to see the path clearly and we follow some person who has misinterpreted Christ. The true follower of Christ has more liberty than that of any other man. He sees the forces in all fields that make the world greater and nobler. He lines up with those forces because the advancing of them is every true man's duty. He has seen, followed and is free and happy. We young men need the church, for in it our lives are mirrored in contrast with the One whom all men thru centuries have deemed the perfect life and thereby we are inspired to reach out and attain unto that noble ideal.

THE AGENDA CLASS

(Concluded.)

mittee got things started, a number of games of tennis were played and teams were organized for bowling and basketball. The bowling team finished third in the Protestant Church League and the basketball team played fifteen games, winning all but two. At the end of the second year the membership was twenty-four.

The officers for the third year were: Clarence Aiken, president; Arthur

Fritz, vice-president; Robert Bitner, secretary, and Ray Deahl, treasurer. The Annual made its appearance at our banquet that year and proved Mr. Shiffer to be an apt editor even if it was his first experience along this line. Clarence Aiken resigned his position as president of the class about the middle of the year and Ernest Baumgartner was elected to fill his unexpired term. At the end of our third year the membership was sixteen, quite a number of the members having moved away.

The officers for the fourth (present) year are: Ray Deahl, president; Robert Bitner, vice-president; Ernest Baumgartner, secretary, and Clarence Aiken, treasurer. This year has marked a definite change in our policies, which we believe will insure definite success in the future. We have made an attempt to do some definite work for the betterment of the church along with our work for the class, at present having plans for several big improvements which we hope to make in the very near future. Lest you think we are over boastful, will explain—"It pays to advertise."

Ever since our class was organized we have been interested in the moral and physical welfare of young men. We had an active part in the Young Men's Forward Congress and as individuals we supported the new Y. M. C. A. We are very glad that this new building is to be erected so close to our church home and expect to take advantage of all of the privileges it will afford.

BAPTISMS

Four children were consecrated to the Lord by the rite of Baptism at Grace Church Easter Sunday. They were:

Faye Elizabeth Shiffer,
Lloyd Edward Potts,
Harold Arthur Dietrick,
Frances Mildred Veon.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me."

LETTER FROM ROBT. BITNER

Dear Members of Grace Church:

It is with reluctance that I write a letter about army life, for there are others in our church who know much more about the life than I.

After the enlistment at the Fort Wayne Station I was sent to Columbus (O.) barracks for a further examination. This seems to be the center for several states, as there were men there from New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. After one passes the examination he is sent to the hospital to be vaccinated and inoculated. That night all are sent to bed early and watched so that if they get sick they may have the best of attention.

Of course, the oath is taken before one is a real soldier. Then every man must be given a uniform and clothing.

As you know, Columbus is only a gathering point for enlisted men. From there they are sent to various points in the United States. Many have gone to Texas and other points; I have been detailed to Fort Leavenworth, Kas. As I have enlisted for the Hospital Corps I will be connected in some way with the hospital here. Every man for this particular branch of the service is furnished with a large book from which he is to study so this is in reality a training school.

It takes about an hour and a half to reach Fort Leavenworth from Kansas City. Fort Leavenworth is a beautiful place, there being hills and plenty of trees and grass.

Breakfast is served at 6:40; at seven o'clock work for the day begins. Work ends at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and the rest of the day belongs to oneself.

So much for army life; so far I am enjoying it. Now I would like to hear from many of the people in Grace Church and those who write me will please address their letters to Fort Leavenworth, Kas., care Hospital Corps. Yours as ever,

ROBERT E. BITNER.

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Visitor extends a cordial welcome to those who on Easter Sunday united with the fellowship of Grace Church. Their presence with us is an added strength and encouragement. The list follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Ruhl,
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Payne.
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hunkeler,
Mrs. M. S. Hill,
Mrs. Frank Veon,
Miss Martha More,
Miss Florence Bell,
Miss Margaret Sorgen.

WERTMAN

On April 13th the sad news came of the sudden death upon that day of Mrs. Samuel L. Wertman, one of the faithful members of Grace Church. To those who had been with her just two days previous as she took part in the Ladies' All-day Sewing in the church parlors it seemed that the news could not be true. But alas! the Grim Reaper had been at work and a familiar face will be seen at Grace Church no more. Interment took place on the 16th of April at Lindenwood. Faithful in all her duties, a sincere friend and a loving wife and mother, Mrs. Wertman will be missed by all who knew her. Her memory will ever be kept fresh in the hearts of her host of friends at Grace Church. The Visitor joins in extending sympathy to the bereaved family. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

The following burials are reported:

Christian F. Hosman; died March 1, 1917, at the age of 82 years. Mr. Hosman was a member of Grace Church.

Mrs. Hannah Snyder; died March 13, 1917, at the age of 79 years. The pastor accompanied the body to Payne, O., for burial.

Milton E. Baum; died April 23, 1917; interment at Old Fort, O.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

Published monthly by the Young Men's Agenda Class.

George M. Shiffer.....Editor-in-Chief
E. W. Baumgartner.....Business Manager
Subscription price, 25 cents a year.

A GENTLE HINT

One organization of local business men has ruled that its members shall not advertise in any church papers. This fact has made it rather difficult to get sufficient ads to finance The Visitor. It does cost money to publish a church paper, even though the editorial and reportorial staff do not draw salaries. Now the subscription price of The Visitor is only twenty-five cents a year—an amount so small that it does not even begin to cover the cost of printing—but it does help out. If you enjoy The Visitor, why not subscribe for it, and “do your bit” toward making it a success? Hand your name and the money to Mr. Baumgartner and you will get your Visitor whether you are able to call and get it or not.

THE FURNACE FUND

When the new furnace was installed the consistory decided that instead of a public appeal for funds a letter should be sent out asking special contributions. The plan was well received, and many responded liberally. Some undoubtedly intended to, but have so far failed to avail themselves of the opportunity to assist; however, it is not too late, as we still need \$40.00 to finish payment. May we not have some further contributions? There are those who can give five or ten dollars, others smaller amounts and whatever you can do will be appreciated. Just place in an envelope, mark “Furnace” and place in the Sunday collection or hand to the treasurer, J. W. Brewer.

Are you inviting your friends to visit us? A great many times visitors become new members.

MOTHERS' DAY

Next Sunday, May 13, will be Mothers' Day and will be observed by Grace Church and Sunday School. Every mother will be delighted to know that her child attended religious service for her, and if she has passed to her reward you cannot better honor her memory than by going to the house of God on Mothers' Day. Wear a colored flower if she is still living; a white one if she has passed away.

THE INCREASE CAMPAIGN

Last month we promised results of The Increase Campaign and we are pleased to give the following:

Average enrollment, 194; increase, 54 or 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

Average attendance of scholars, 148; percentage, 76.

Average total attendance, 154; percentage, 78.

Average offering, \$6.62 per Sunday.
Total number of visitors, 112.

Each class contributed at least \$5.00 to the Endowment Fund and two classes \$10.00 each.

We are more than proud of our record, which, considering the campaign took in all of the worst winter weather, is exceptionally good. Let us keep up the attendance—we can and with everyone's help, we will.

The Mary B. Hoy Missionary Circle held its business meeting at the home of Mrs. Leikauf on Washington Boulevard East on April 17th. The semi-annual election of officers was held, resulting as follows: President, Ruth Gumpfer; vice-president, Hagel Gooley; secretary, Edith Benninghoff; treasurer, Adah Gumpfer. The object of this class is to devote one evening each month to the study of missions. Every young lady of the church should be in this class; will you join us? Mrs. Edith Benninghoff had charge of the devotion, and Miss Adah Gumpfer had charge of the mission study.

THE LADIES' WORK

—Doremus Guild—

Grace Reformed Church—Fort Wayne
PARCEL POST SALE

—O—

We're writing this to send you word
That if on or before May 17th
You'll kindly bring or send by mail
By Parcel Post a gift for sale,
Some gift not to exceed in price
About ten cents, but something nice;
Of moderate size and wrapped up well
Which for ten cents we then may sell.
We'll thank you most exceedingly.

* * *

The above cards are being sent broadcast and are self explanatory. Mr. Edward Close, with his genial disposition, will act as Auctioneer, which alone ought to be a great drawing card. All members and friends of Grace Church are cordially invited to come and spend a social evening together.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served free of charge. If you wish any of these cards to send to friends, Mrs. J. R. Bitner will supply you.

Our Coffee Urn.

We used the Anthony Blend Coffee in our urn at the last church supper for two reasons: First, because it saves time and strength, and, second, because the ground article is steel cut. The beverage was most delicious. Dear ladies, of the guild, only 186 signatures this month. Quite a falling off from the March payment. There are many members of the guild not heard from. They are doubtless making a large collection and will send them in later. Let every family remember all Bursley signatures count. Turn them in next month.

Section No. 3 will serve supper in church parlors in June. Managers, Mrs. Will Hildabrand, Mrs. Sarah Knight, Mrs. Ellen Weickart, Mrs. Dan Null. Assistants, Mesdames E. C. Close, W. F.

Close, E. A. Close, H. E. Metzner, James Evard, Kate Certia, Fred Sherer, Jacob Sherer, Clinton Shultz, August Guillaume, Philip Heyman, Kate Weiler, Ed Chaussee, Fred Roth, Ed Heyman, Will Habecker, William Burgett, Ida Harris, Ernest Baumgartner, Louis Roeger, J. A. Woolard, R. M. Snyder, Otto Snyder, E. M. Klopfenstein, Emma Paff, Misses Elsie Weickart, Bertha Weickart, Juanita Heyman, Helen Trisch, Anna Doerner, Helen Weickart, Julia Bercot, Maud Snyder, E. Wenninghoff.

* * *

Social afternoon for month of May will be held at the suburban home of Mrs. Jacob Rudisill. Her assistants will be her daughters, Miss Elizabeth, Mrs. Luke Durnell, Mrs. E. Payne and Mesdames Burgett, Boeger, Schaick, Valentine Monn, Perry Monn, Ernest Baumgartner. Everyone remember the date—May 31.

* * *

FOR SALE—By Sewing Committee, a beautiful white quilted spread.

CONTEST IS ON

The members of the Zwingly Bible Class challenged the Men's Senior Bible Class to a six-weeks' contest, the forfeit to be a luncheon to be served by the class losing the contest. The basis of the contest is as follows:

Each class shall be judged on average attendance for six weeks prior to the beginning of the contest.

1. Each person (visitors counted) present above the average attendance as stated above is to count one point.

2. New members, ten points.

3. To secure a new member for any class of the Sunday School, three points.

Number of points to be kept by each class.

There is no doubt in the minds of the members of the Men's Class as to the outcome, and they are not going to leave any stones unturned to make the result so decisive that they never again will be challenged.

ZWINGLY BIBLE CLASS

The Ladies' Bible Class is at last organized under the name of the Zwingly Bible Class, and with the following officers:

President—Mrs. Henry Dinger.

Secretary—Mrs. Ruck.

Treasurer—Mrs. Gooley.

The March meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Bitner. After a short business session a social time was enjoyed by all. All the ladies of the church are invited to meet with our class. WE know that they will benefit by the interesting explanations of the lesson by Mr. Koeph, our teacher.

TRUE BLUE CORNER

We have at last shown the people of Grace Reformed Church that we are not sleeping. Everyone at our entertainment agreed that it was a decided success. Although some seemed to think that it was too short, we do not agree to that. That statement only shows to those who were absent how extremely interesting it was and what they missed by not being present. We wish to thank all our friends and the members of the church who so kindly co-operated with us in our first attempt to produce anything of this kind. Now we suppose you would all like to know how much we cleared at this entertainment, so will gladly tell you that we cleared \$18.10.

At our last class meeting at the home of Miss Leona Botteran we decided to try a new method of raising money. We think it is original. We are going to fine every girl one cent for every slang word that she uses. If you don't think we'll get money, try it and see. We received our charter recently and are now a fully organized class.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

The Primary Department reports a very good attendance each Sunday. One of the boys, Master Dean Metzner, is able to take his place with them again after a brief illness.

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C. E. NOTES

Our last business meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Knott on Alabama Ave.; after the business was finished, a social time was held and refreshments served. Topics and leaders for May are as follows:

May 6. Love, I Cor., 13; 1-13. Consecration meeting. Leader, Ray Deahl.

May 13. Fellowship with God, Ps. 119; 97-104. Quiet Hour. Leaderless meeting.

May 20. Growing as Christ Grew. Luke 2; 41-52. Union meeting with Juniors. Rev. Schaaf.

May 27. Financing the Kingdom. Luke 19; 11-26. Tenth Legion. Vera Sessler.

MIYAGI GIRLS

The Miyagi Class met at the home of Miss Mabel Weikart, 1216 Clark Street, on Tuesday evening, April 24. This was the first meeting since the organization on March 10 and the class expects to meet regularly each month.

AGENDA CORNER

The Agenda Class met for its regular business meeting on April 20th at the parsonage. We were delighted to have Darrel Copenhaver with us again, but were very sorry to hear that we have lost Robert Bitner for an indefinite time.

After the meeting Rev. Mr. Schaaf entertained the class with a bachelors' lunch, which convinced us that a bachelor's life is not so bad after all.

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